

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace any/all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application, wherein additions are shown in underlined text and deletions are shown in strike-out text:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing molten irons, comprising :

providing a mixture containing iron by drying and mixing iron ores and additives;

drying the iron ores or the additives by using a portion of a branched exhaust gas which is exhausted from at least one fluidized bed while conveying the mixtures to the fluidized bed by using the portion of the branched exhaust gas which is directed to the fluidized bed;

passing the mixture containing iron through one or more successively-connected fluidized beds to convert the mixture into a reduced material that is reduced and calcined;

forming a coal packed bed as a heat source in which the reduced material has been melted;

charging the reduced material to the coal packed bed and supplying oxygen to the coal packed bed to manufacture molten irons; and

supplying reducing gas exhausted from the coal packed bed to the fluidized bed.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in providing a mixture containing iron, at least one of the iron ores and the additives is dried immediately prior to supply to the fluidized bed.
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein providing a mixture containing iron comprises :

discharging stored iron ores and additives;

drying the iron ores and additives using separate heating air while vibrating the iron ores and additives;

storing the dried iron ores and additives; and

supplying the stored iron ores and additives to the fluidized bed.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in providing a mixture containing iron, an amount of branched exhaust gas is 20-40% of an amount of exhaust gas exhausted from the fluidized bed.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in providing a mixture containing iron, at least one of the iron ores and the additives is conveyed and simultaneously dried.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein in providing a mixture containing iron, a flow rate of the exhaust gas is 20-30m/s in the case where the iron ores are conveyed.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein in providing a mixture containing iron, a flow rate of the exhaust gas is 10-20m/s in the case where additives are conveyed.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in providing a mixture containing iron, the iron ores are fine ores having a grain size of 8mm or less.

9. -15. (Canceled).